

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

DDMHS, Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601 (802-241-2638)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani and Monica Simon

DATE: March 5, 2004

RE: Change in CRT and General Population Employment rates

This week's PIP focuses on the relationship of employment in the general population to employment among clients of Vermont's Community Rehabilitation and Treatment (CRT) programs for adults with serious mental illness. This analysis was conducted in response to numerous questions about the substantial (29%) decrease in employment of CRT clients during the first quarter of calendar year 2003. Most of these inquiries have focused on data quality and reporting issues. Our first response focused on potential reporting issues for the period of decreased employment. No problems were found. Because of widespread discussion of a more general economic downturn at the time of the decrease in CRT employment, our second response was to compare change in levels of employment for the CRT population to change in levels of employment in the general population. This comparison focuses on the four years we have been monitoring CRT employment rates. This PIP presents the results of that comparison.

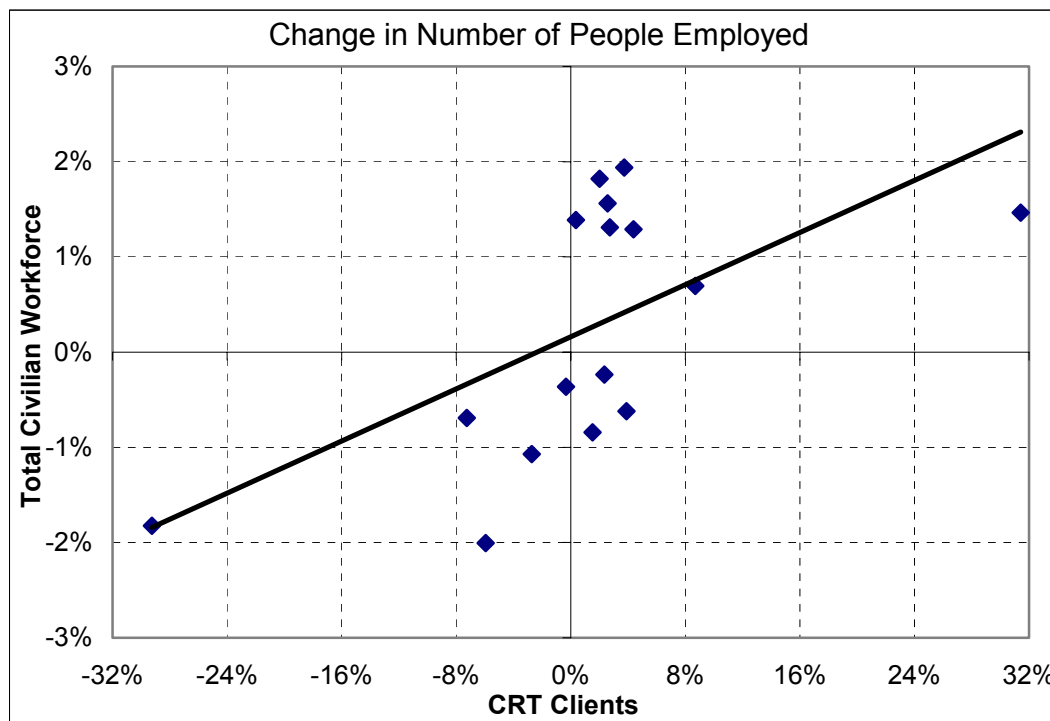
Our analysis of the relationship between change in CRT employment and change in employment in the general population of Vermont involved standard mathematical correlation/regression techniques. Data regarding CRT employment was provided by our quarterly monitoring system, based on record linkage with Department of Employment and Training (DET). The procedure, quarterly findings, and results of related analyses are available at (www.ddmhs.state.vt.us/docs/pips/pips-by-cross-sector-indicators.html#emp). Data regarding employment in the general population was obtained from the DET monthly Civilian Labor Force and Unemployment Statistics report (www.vtmi.info/labforce.cfm). During the period of this study, Vermont's civilian labor force averaged over 333,000; the number of employed CRT clients averaged 564.

Results of this analysis indicate that there is a significant and substantial positive correlation between CRT employment and employment of members of the general population of Vermont ($r=.60$; $p<.02$). During the 16 consecutive calendar quarters covered by this study, CRT employment tended to increase when the total number employed increased and decrease when the total number employed decreased. The relative amount of change in the size of the CRT workforce, however, was much greater than the amount of change in the total workforce. This may indicate that the CRT workforce is more subject to the influence of large scale economic changes than the civilian workforce as a whole.

We look forward to your comments, interpretation, and suggestions for further analysis of these data. As always, you can reach us at pip@ddmhs.state.vt.us or 802-241-2638.

Relationship Between Quarterly Change in Employment Clients of CMHC Community Rehabilitation and Treatment Programs and Total Civilian Workforce

By Calendar Quarter, Vermont: July 1999 - September 2003



$r = .60$

$p = .014$

Average civilian workforce = 330,641

Average employed CRT clients = 564

CRT clients include clients of Community Rehabilitation and Treatment Programs for adults with serious mental illness (aged 18 - 64). CRT employment is based on record linkage of the Department of Developmental and Mental Health Services (DDMHS) and the Department of Employment and Training (DET) databases. DDMHS client data are submitted by Community Rehabilitation and Treatment Programs in conformance with contractual requirements. DET data are submitted by employers in conformance with state and federal unemployment laws. Workers who are excluded from DET reporting are the self-employed, firm owners not incorporated and the following employee groups: elected officials, employees of nonprofit religious, charitable and educational organizations, unpaid family members, farm workers (with some exceptions), and railroad employees.

Civilian workforce employment was obtained from DET's Labor Market Information website www.vtlmi.info/labforce.cfm

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